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(54) Panel mounted electrical connector

(57) An electrical connector (10) is adapted for mounting in an aperture in a panel. A housing (26) has sidewalls bounding an insertion end (32) of the housing insertable into the aperture. A bridge (48) is secured at opposite ends (50a,50b) to one of the sidewalls with an intermediate portion and a panel latch (46) being freely flexible relative to the housing. At least one of the opposite ends (50a,50b) of the bridge (48) includes a pair of redundant supporting arms (52,54). A yieldable anti-vibration arm (42) projects from another of the sidewalls and is mounted to the housing by a pair of redundant support arms (56). A polarizing rib (44) projects from the housing, and a panel abutment stop (40) is formed integral with the polarizing rib on a radius (60).

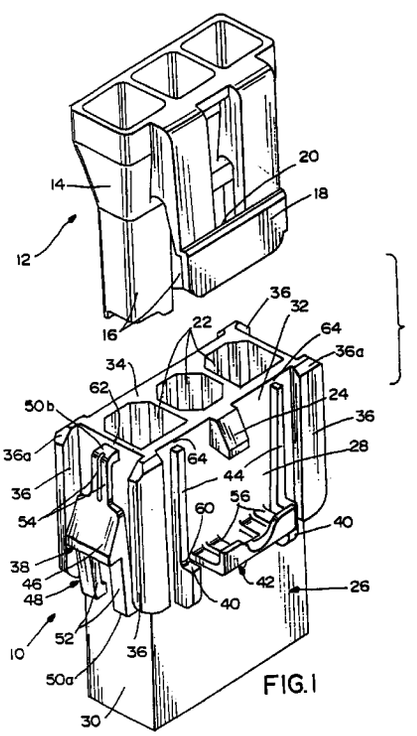


FIG.1

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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 96 11 9245

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.Cl.6)
X Y	US 3 573 716 A (GARVER WILLIAM JOSEPH) 6 April 1971 * column 2, line 1 - column 3, line 31 *	1-3 4,5	H01R13/74 H01R13/627 H01R13/64
A Y	US 5 131 867 A (PELOZA KIRK B ET AL) 21 July 1992 * column 2, line 33 - column 3, line 36; figures 1,2 *	6-10 4,5	
A	EP 0 501 393 A (AMP INC) 2 September 1992 * column 2, line 27-40; figure 6 *	1,2	
A	DE 16 40 411 A (HARTING, WILHELM) 27 May 1970 * claim 1; figures 4,8 *	1,2	
A	US 5 277 623 A (FENCL DUANE M ET AL) 11 January 1994 * column 4, line 50 - column 5, line 55; figures 1,5 *	1-4	
A	US 3 523 269 A (BISSLAND JOHN D ET AL) 4 August 1970 * column 2, line 41 - column 3, line 38; figure 1 *	4	TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.6) H01R
X Y	DE 87 00 209 U (AMP DEUTSCHLAND) 23 April 1987 * page 11, line 1-9; figures 1,2,4 *	6 7	
Y	DE 25 34 775 A (SIEMENS AG) 10 February 1977 * page 5, line 17 - page 6, line 9; figure 1 *	7	
A	EP 0 585 646 A (MOLEX INC) 9 March 1994 * column 5, line 15 - column 6, line 58; figure 1 *	6-10	

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The present search report has been drawn up for all claims

Place of search	Date of completion of the search	Examiner
THE HAGUE	26 June 1998	Waern, G

CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS

X : particularly relevant if taken alone
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A : technological background
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& : member of the same patent family, corresponding document

EPO FORM 1503 03.82 (P04C01)

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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 96 11 9245

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.Cl.6)
A	EP 0 574 030 A (FUJITSU LTD ;AMDAHL CORP (US)) 15 December 1993 * abstract; figure 3 * -----	6-10	
			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.6)

The present search report has been drawn up for all claims

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EPO FORM 1503 03.82 (P04C01)

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Application Number
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CLAIMS INCURRING FEES

The present European patent application comprised at the time of filing more than ten claims.

☐ Only part of the claims have been paid within the prescribed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for the first ten claims and for those claims for which claims fees have been paid, namely claim(s):

☐ No claims fees have been paid within the prescribed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for the first ten claims.

LACK OF UNITY OF INVENTION

The Search Division considers that the present European patent application does not comply with the requirements of unity of invention and relates to several inventions or groups of inventions, namely:

see sheet B

☒ All further search fees have been paid within the fixed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for all claims.

☐ Only part of the further search fees have been paid within the fixed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for those parts of the European patent application which relate to the inventions in respect of which search fees have been paid, namely claims:

☐ None of the further search fees have been paid within the fixed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for those parts of the European patent application which relate to the invention first mentioned in the claims, namely claims:

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LACK OF UNITY OF INVENTION
SHEET B

Application Number
EP 96 11 9245

The Search Division considers that the present European patent application does not comply with the requirements of unity of invention and relates to several inventions or groups of inventions, namely:

1. Claims: 1-5

   An electrical connector for mounting in an aperture in a panel, the connector comprising a latch for engagning a side of the panel.

2. Claims: 6-10

   An electrical connector for mounting in an aperture in a panel, the connector comprising polarizing means.